



4

EMA TOYAMA

My heart's
beating...

AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

The background features several decorative elements: a large five-pointed star in the top right corner with a hatched pattern in its upper right point; a smaller five-pointed star in the bottom left corner; and various clusters of small black squares and dots scattered across the page. The text is centered and underlined.

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS

CHARACTERS

-BASKETBALL TEAM MEMBERS-



TAIKI
IWASE

The team captain, who lives
and breathes basketball.
High-school 2nd Year.



TSUYOSHI
OKAMOTO

Often the butt of jokes.
High-school 2nd Year.



RYOSUKE
KAZANUMA

The intellectual
vice-captain. High-school
2nd Year.



NAO
INOHARA

Aoba's best friend.
High-school 1st Year.



KYOKO
MATSUMAE

Manager. High-school
1st Year.



ASUKA
UMEI

Aoba's ex-girlfriend.
The manager for
South Hiratsuka High's
basketball team.



HARUMA
EMORI

South Hiratsuka High's
basketball star. Aoba's
teammate in junior high.
Has a grudge against
Aoba.



Listening House
Mode

MAYO SAKURADA

A quiet girl who isn't good at talking to people.
In order to conquer her weaknesses, she starts a
part-time job at a Listening House as a person
who listens to other people's problems.
She joined the basketball team as a manager in
order to understand Aoba's worries.



KOTA AOBA

The basketball team's star player who's
popular with the girls. A first-year high-
school student. He went to the same junior
high-school as Mayo. He seems to be hiding
a worry that he can't share with anyone.
He's Mayo's first customer at the
Listening House.

STORY

A high-school loner with poor communication skills, Mayo starts a strange job as a "Listening House girl" where she listens to people's stories. But her first customer is the school basketball team's star player Aoba, who Mayo thought was flawless and the epitome of social stardom! In order to hear about Aoba's worries, Mayo becomes the basketball team's manager...

The Inter-High Preliminaries begin, and Aoba gets shaken up when he runs into his ex-girlfriend Asuka and his former junior high basketball teammate Haruma. After that, he opens up to Mayo about his secret... "Liking something will destroy it"? What on earth does that mean?

C O N T E N T S

Time . 13

BECAUSE I'M SCARED.

5

Time . 14

WE'RE THE SAME.

43

Time . 15

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

79

Time . 16

THE TRUTH IS.

113

EXTRA EDITION:
~ A DAY OF
SWEET LOVE STORIES ~

151



time 13

BECAUSE I'M
SCARED.



THAT'S
AOBA-KUN'S
SECRET...?

FOR ME,
GROWING
ATTACHED IS
THE BEGINNING
OF THE END.

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS



...WHEN
YOU LIKE
SOMETHING,
YOU'RE GOING
TO END UP
HATING IT?

DOES
THAT
MEAN...



NOT
SO MUCH HATE,
BUT...I'LL STOP
LIKING IT.



THAT'S
HOW IT'S
BEEN
SINCE I
WAS A
CHILD.



"FOR-
GET"...



I'LL
FORGET WHY
I LIKED IT IN
THE FIRST
PLACE.



IT
WAS THAT
MUCH MORE
PAINFUL GIVEN
THE EFFORT
AND PASSION
I PUT INTO
IT.

REGARD-
LESS OF
WHAT IT
WAS OR
HOW MUCH
I LOVED
DOING
IT...

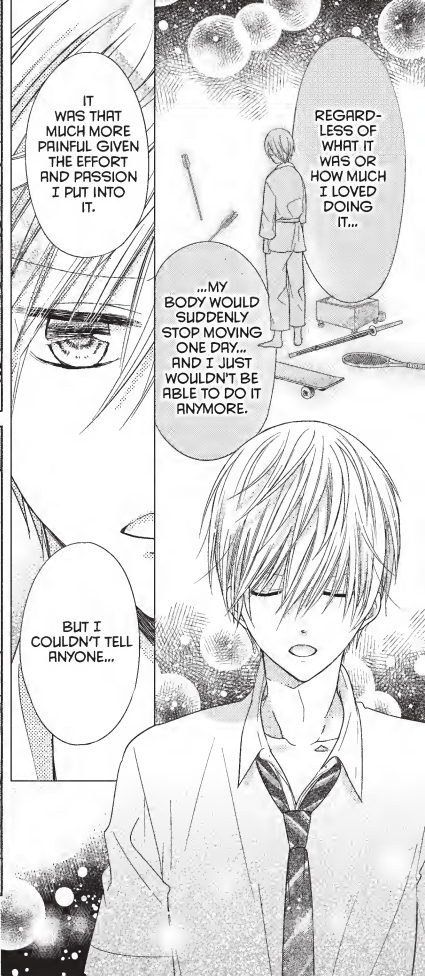
...MY
BODY WOULD
SUDDENLY
STOP MOVING
ONE DAY...
AND I JUST
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO DO IT
ANYMORE.



...WHEN
I FIRST
JOINED THE
BASKET-
BALL TEAM
AND MADE
FRIENDS...

IT
WAS ALL
SOLO
ACTIVITIES
UNTIL
JUNIOR
HIGH...

BUT I
COULDN'T TELL
ANYONE...





...THE
MORE I
FEARED
I'D TURN
ON MYSELF
AND BE
UNABLE TO
PLAY.

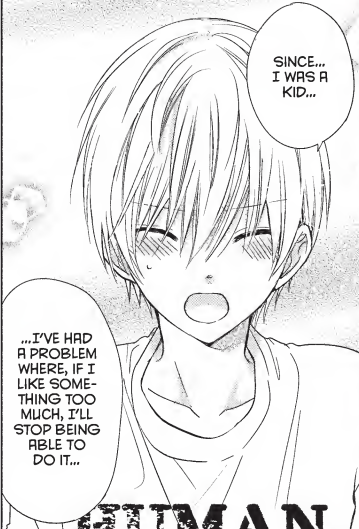
BUT THE
MORE I
LIKED
IT...

EVERY
DAY WAS A
BLAST...

...NOT
JUST BE-
CAUSE OF
BASKET-
BALL, BUT
BECAUSE
I LIKED
MY TEAM-
MATES.

SO...

UHP
YOU'RE
QUITTING
THE
BASKET-
BALL
TEAM...?



SINCE...
I WAS A
KID...

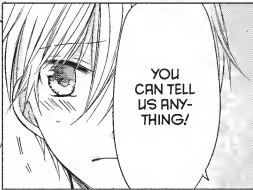
...I'VE HAD
A PROBLEM
WHERE, IF I
LIKE SOME-
THING TOO
MUCH, I'LL
STOP BEING
ABLE TO
DO IT...



IF
SOME-
THING'S
BOTHER-
ING YOU,
TELL US!

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?
WE CAN'T
GO TO THE
NATIONALS
WITHOUT
YOU!

YUMA
SEINO



YOU
CAN TELL
US ANY-
THING!



HUH?



BUT...YOU
HAVEN'T
LOST ALL
INTEREST...

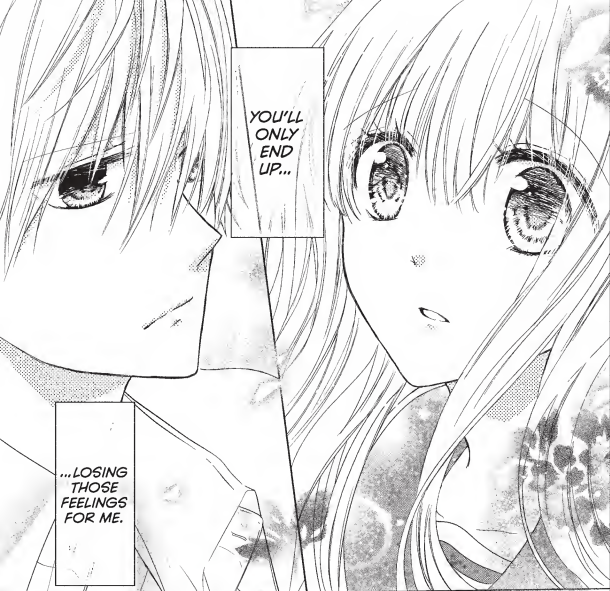
SO I RAN
AWAY. I
WANTED TO
STAY AWAY
FROM ASUKA
AND MY OLD
TEAMMATES
...
...BEFORE
I'D COM-
PLETELY
LOSE
INTEREST
IN IT ALL...

THAT'S
WHY...

NO ONE CAN
UNDERSTAND
ME...

I'VE...HURT
EVERYONE...

...EVEN IF
I START
DEVELOPING
FEELINGS
FOR YOU,
SAKURADA...



YOU'LL
ONLY
END
UP...

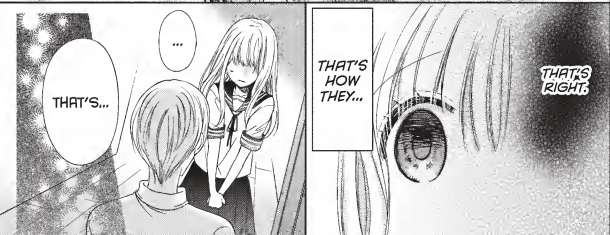
...LOSING
THOSE
FEELINGS
FOR ME.



WHY? YOU
DON'T LIKE
EACH OTHER
ANYMORE?

YOUR
FATHER AND
I ARE GOING
TO SPLIT UP.

MAYO...



THAT'S...

THAT'S
HOW
THEY...

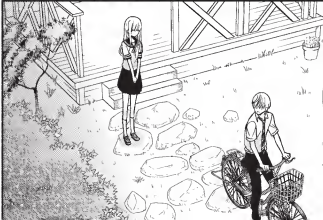
THAT'S
RIGHT.



...NOT
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
ACCEPT, IS
IT?



THE
GAME IS
TOMORROW
AND IT'S GET-
TING LATE, SO
I'LL TAKE YOU
HOME.



TAKE
CARE. HAVE
A GOOD
NIGHT.

HELLO! THIS IS EMA TOYAMA. THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THE FOURTH VOLUME OF AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS. ♡

CONTINUING FROM VOLUME 3, I'M THINKING OF USING THIS SPACE TO CHAT MORE ABOUT RANDOM THINGS. ♡

I WAS RECENTLY MOVED WHEN I DISCOVERED A BAKERY THAT SOLD SOMETHING I'D LONG BEEN SEARCHING FOR: FRENCH TOAST THAT WAS NEITHER SWEET NOR SOFT. ♡

I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF FRENCH TOAST THAT'S SWEET, MOIST AND SOFT, BUT MY FAVOURITE LUNCH IN ELEMENTARY WAS FRENCH TOAST THAT WAS FIRM AND NOT SWEET. ♡

I FELT LIKE I'D BEEN SEARCHING FOR YEARS TO FIND THIS. I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW LONG A CERTAIN TASTE HAD STAYED WITH ME. INCIDENTALLY, THAT BAKERY ALSO SELLS SANDWICHES WITH A VERY THICK PIECE OF ROAST BEEF INSIDE FOR VERY CHEAP, SO I'M A LITTLE WORRIED AS TO WHETHER THEY'RE MAKING A PROFIT. ♡

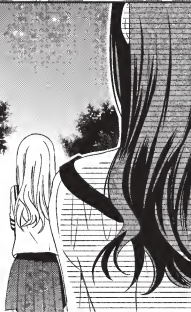
I...I'M GETTING CONCERNED OVER NOTHING. ♡

I ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AOBA-KUN...

...AND HE EVEN OPENED UP TO ME, BUT...

I COULDN'T TELL HIM...

...THAT I COULD ACCEPT THAT SIDE OF HIM...





DON'T LEAVE YOUR MOM ALL BY HERSELF!

YOU'RE HOME LATE, WHAT HAPPENED?

WHO WAS THAT BOY?

MOM!

UH... WELL...



WELCOME HOME, MAYO!
♡



THAT'S THE DAY WE MEET YOUR FATHER, AND YOU ONLY MEET HIM ONCE EVERY HALF A YEAR!

OH NO! YOU CAN'T GO TOMORROW!



WHAART?!
..

THERE'S A BASKETBALL GAME TOMORROW, SO...



YOU GET TO EAT SOME DELICIOUS FOOD, Y'KNOW!
♪

YOU ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THAT, DON'T YOU?

OH, RIGHT! TOMORROW'S THE DAY I MEET MY DAD!

I TOTALLY FORGOT!

SCARY!



MAYO

SORRY
SORRY
SORRY
SORRY
SORRY

DO GE
GADVEL-
LING



ZA
ON THE
FLOOR

SORRY SORRY
SORRY SORRY
SORRY SORRY
SORRY SORRY
SORRY SORRY

SAKURADA-
SAN SENT
MESSAGES
SAYING
"SORRY"
OVER AND
OVER!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...?

HMP

WELL, THE
GAME IS IN
THE AFTER-
NOON, SO
HOPEFULLY
SHE'LL BE
ABLE TO
MAKE THAT.

DID SHE
EXHAUST
HERSELF
FROM MAK-
ING THOSE
BENTOS?

SHE
SAYS
SHE'S
GOING TO
BE LATE.

YOKO-
HAMA

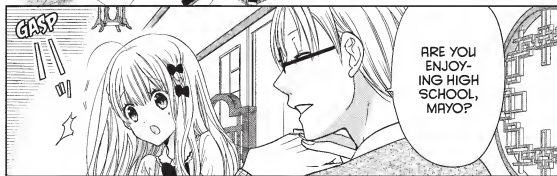
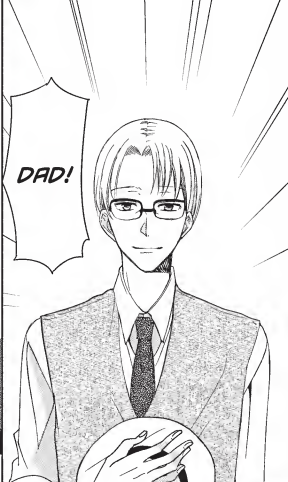
CHATTER
CHATTER

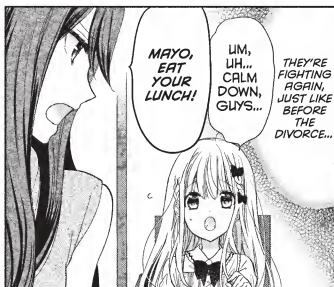
IS IT
BECAUSE
OF WHAT
I'D SAID
...?

東鎌倉

5
HIGAKAMA







...AND
ALL I
CAN DO
IS WATCH
THEM
GROW
APART.

...AND
WEAR
THEM-
SELVES
OUT...

THE TWO
OF THEM
FIGHT
AND
HURT
EACH
OTHER...

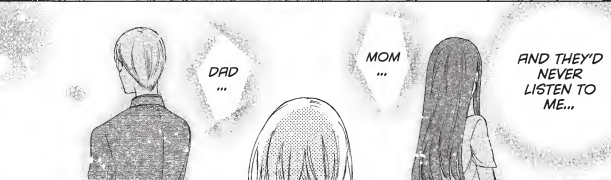
IT'S
JUST
LIKE
BEFORE
...



DAD
...

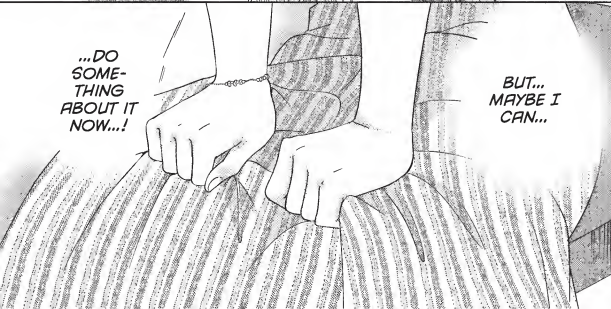
MOM
...

AND THEY'D
NEVER
LISTEN TO
ME...



...DO
SOME-
THING
ABOUT IT
NOW...!

BUT...
MAYBE I
CAN...







**...THE
PASSION THAT
WE HAD FOR
EACH OTHER
IS LONG
GONE.**

BUT...



**H...HOW
MUCH
DID YOU
LIKE EACH
OTHER?**

**THEY...
ACTUALLY
LISTENED!**



**WELL,
BACK
THEN...**

**HA HA
HA! ARE
YOU
BEING
THE LIS-
TENING
HOUSE
GIRL?**



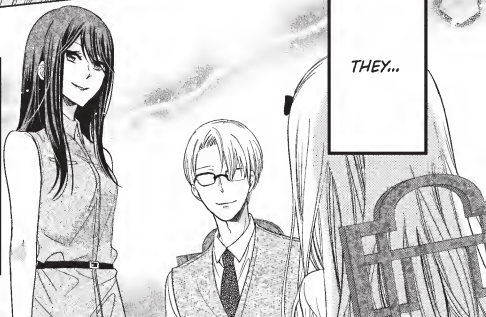
**IF I CAN
JUST...GET
THEM TO
REMEM-
BER HOW
THEY FELT
ABOUT
EACH
OTHER
BACK
THEN...!**

**...WE
LOVED
EACH
OTHER SO
MUCH WE
COULDN'T
BEAR IT.**



...STOPPED
LIKING
EACH
OTHER...

THEY...



BADUMP

HA HA
HA! IT
WON'T
MATTER
WHETHER
YOU'RE
THERE
OR NOT!

OH, THE
ONE
YOU
MEN-
TIONED
YESTER-
DAY?

YEAH,
IT'S AN
IMPOR-
TANT
GAME

UH...I
HAVE
TO...GO
TO THE
BAS-
KETBALL
GAME

VRRR



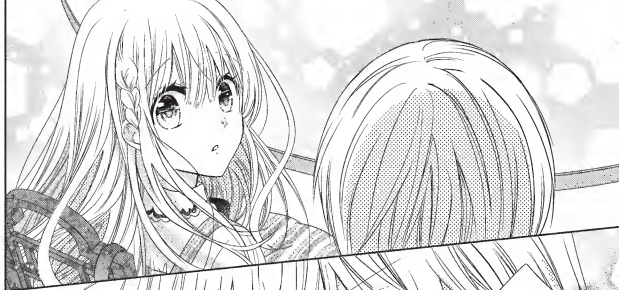


**IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHETHER
I'M THERE
OR NOT.**

YEAH...

**IT DOES
MATTER!**

**BECAUSE
SHE'S A
VALUABLE
TEAM
MEMBER!**



WE
HAVE A
GAME TO
GO TO!

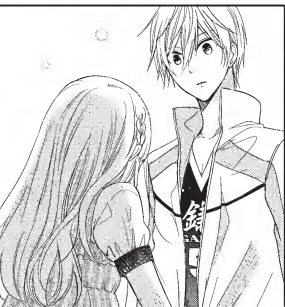
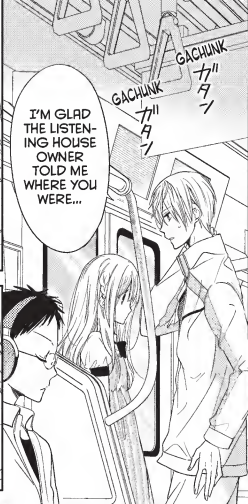
SAKU-
RADA!



A!!
DASH



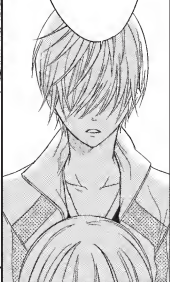
HEY!
MAYO!







YEAH...IT'S
NORMAL TO
FEEL THAT
WAY.



IT HURTS
TO THINK
THAT
YOU'VE

...

...ALWAYS
FELT THIS
WAY...

FORGET
WHAT
I SAID
YESTER-
DAY...

IT
HURTS...





THE
FEELINGS
I HAVE
FOR YOU,
ROBA-
KUN...

...MIGHT
GO AWAY
ONE DAY,
TOO.

I
AM!

URK...

YOU'RE
CRYING
BECAUSE
OF ME?

THINK
ABOUT
YOUR-
SELF
FOR
ONCE!



I'M ALSO
SCARED OF
THAT...

I
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL
NOW,
ROBA-
KUN...



RATHER
THAN
FEARING
FOR THE
FUTURE...

...I WANT
YOU TO
ENJOY THE
PRESENT
MORE.

?!


WHAT
ARE YOU...
SAYING...?

IF I
DO THAT,
I'LL...

I WANT
YOU TO
EMBRACE
THOSE
FEELINGS
MORE.

THOSE
FEELINGS
FOR BASKET-
BALL. FOR
THOSE YOU
CARE FOR.





...IT
DOESN'T
CHANGE
THE FACT
THAT
THOSE
FEELINGS
WERE
THERE.

EVEN IF
YOUR
FEELINGS
GROW
COLD,
AOBA-
KUN...

EVEN
IF THEIR
FEELINGS
DISAP-
PEARED...

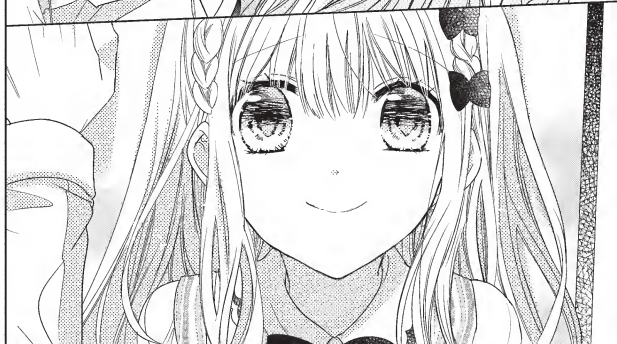
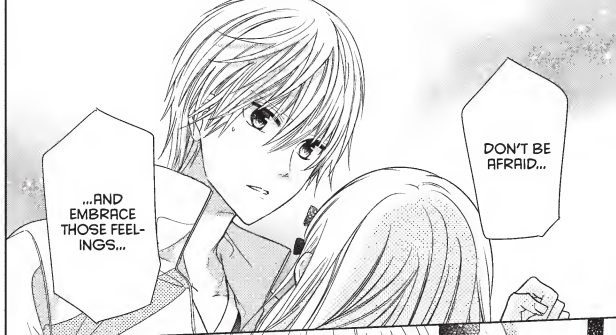
...I'M HERE
BECAUSE
MY PARENTS
MET EACH
OTHER.

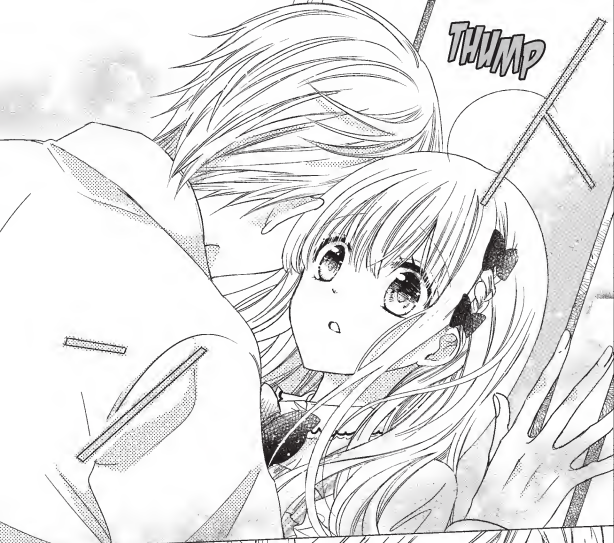
...I'LL
BE THERE
TO LISTEN
TO YOUR
PAIN.

WHEN
THAT TIME
COMES...

SO GO
FOR IT, AND
DON'T BE
AFRAID.

I'LL
BE THERE
WITH
YOU.







I KNOW
IT WAS HARD
FOR YOU TO
TELL ME, BUT
I'M THANKFUL
THAT YOU
DID.

OKAY...



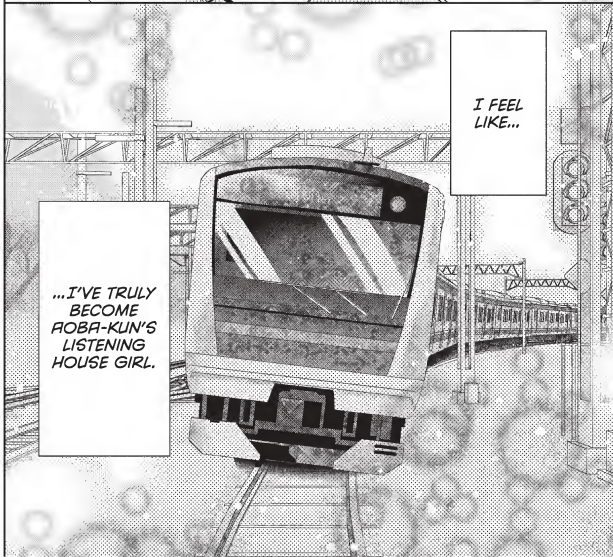
EVEN
IF THEY
GO AWAY
SOMEDAY
...





I FEEL...
BETTER...

I AM,
TOO...



I FEEL
LIKE...

...I'VE TRULY
BECOME
ROBA-KUN'S
LISTENING
HOUSE GIRL.



SAKU-
RADA!
I'VE
COME
TO GET
YOU!



GYOZA .

ROBA-
KUN...



HE
LOVES
GARLIC.



ARE YOU
CRYING?!

W...WE
HAVE
TO GO
TO THE
GAME!!

GOOD-BYE GYOZA

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS



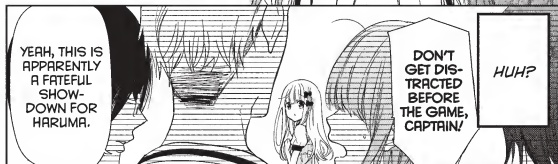
time.14

WE'RE THE
SAME.



AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

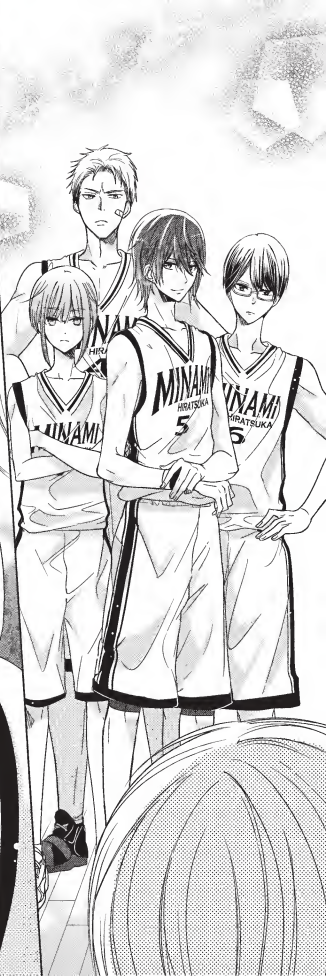
MYSTERIOUS GETUP...

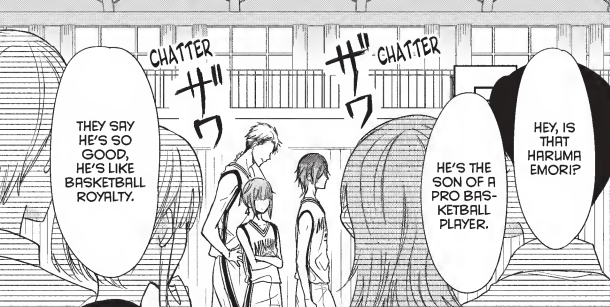




LET'S
HURRY
UP AND
GET THIS
STARTED!

HARUMA
...





THEY SAY
HE'S SO
GOOD,
HE'S LIKE
BASKETBALL
ROYALTY.

HEY, IS
THAT
HARUMA
EMORI?

HE'S THE
SON OF A
PRO BAS-
KETBALL
PLAYER.



I
HOPE
AOBA-
KUN
WILL
BE
OKAY.

...AFTER HE
COULDN'T
UNDER-
STAND
AOBA-
KUN'S
SITUATION.

THAT'S
THE
SAME
TEAM-
MATE
AOBA-
KUN
SPLIT
UP
WITH...

YOU TWO
USED TO
BE TEAM-
MATES.
YOU
SHOULD BE
FAMILIAR
WITH HIS
PLAYING
STYLE.

AOBA,
YOU
COVER
EMORI.

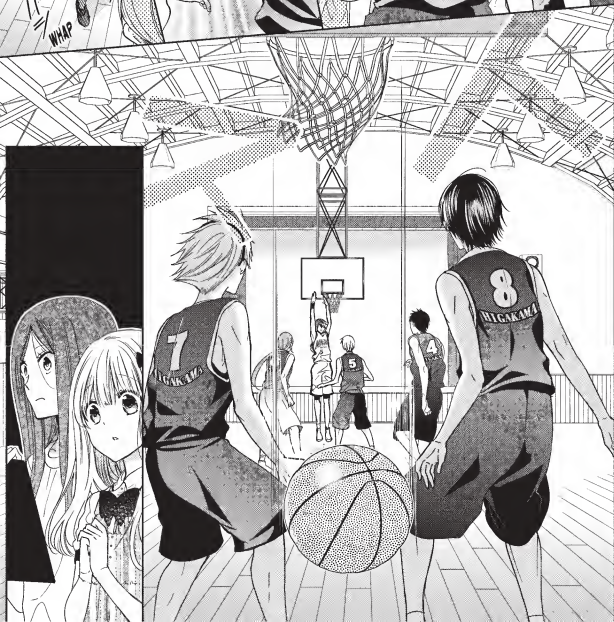
YES,
SIR.

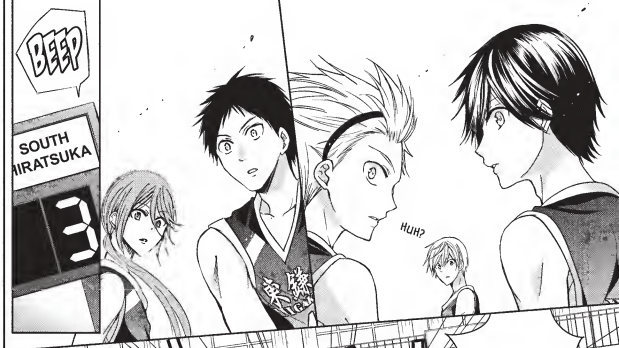


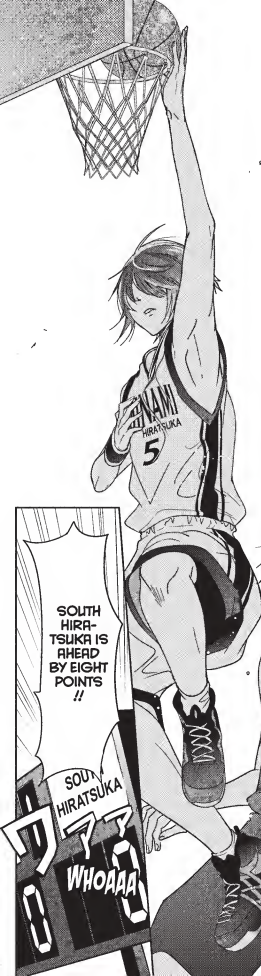
I'LL BE
BACK.

SAKURADA,
I'LL BE
FINE.









SOUTH
HIRA-
TSUKA IS
AHEAD
BY EIGHT
POINTS
!!

SOUTH
HIRATSUKA

WHOOAAA



FWIP



THIS
ISN'T
GOOD.

A...
AGAIN
?!



EASIER
SAID
THAN
DONE!

DON'T
LET HIM
GET
THE
BALL!



IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY DO SUCK AT BASKETBALL NOW, AFTER ALL!

WHY SO SLOW, ROBA?



MURMUR
MURMUR
ザウ
ザウ

THEY'RE STRONG, ALL RIGHT...!

SOUTH HIRATSUKA IS EVEN BETTER THAN THE RUMORS ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE EAST KAMAKURA IS STRUGGLING THIS MUCH...



FWIP

NAO!
I GOT IT, KOTA!



HMPH/
SO YOU'RE ROBA'S PARTNER THIS TIME, HUH?



NO WAY!

THWAP

WHEN I'M ASKED ABOUT MY FAVOURITE FOOD, I USUALLY SAY "SUKIYAKI" OR "IKURA-PON." AS FOR WHAT I USUALLY EAT, HONESTLY, I JUST CAN'T RESIST RAMEN. ♡

I HAVE IT FOR LUNCH ABOUT THREE TIMES A WEEK. ♡

SALT, MISO, SOY SAUCE, TONKOTSU...I LOVE THEM ALL! ♡

WHEN I'M MAKING THE MANUSCRIPT, I DON'T REALLY GO OUT, SO ALL I LOOK FORWARD TO IS EATING AND SLEEPING. ♡

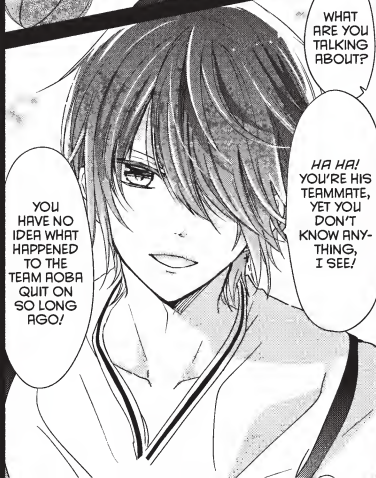
I FEEL JOY WHEN I EAT RAMEN, TOO. ♡

COME TO THINK OF IT, I WENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHINESE RESTAURANT THE OTHER DAY AND ORDERED A LEEK AND RAMEN SET, AND THE PICTURE SEEMED LIKE IT WAS A SNACK SIZE, BUT I WAS SURPRISED TO GET A SINGLE SERVING. DOES THIS PLACE...HAVE SERVINGS FOR TWO...?! AFTER EATING, I TOOK A WALK FOR AN HOUR AND WENT HOME... ♡

THERE'S NO WAY I SHED THE CALORIES.



TRUST HIM, AND HE'LL TURN ON YOU!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HA HA!
YOU'RE HIS TEAMMATE,
YET YOU DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING,
I SEE!

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
TEAM ROBA
QUIT ON
SO LONG
AGO!



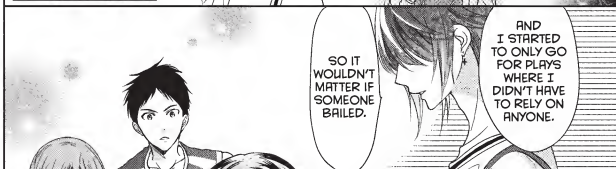
!!

ROBA
DROVE
OUR
TEAM TO
RUIN!

WE LOST
TRUST
IN ONE
ANOTHER,
AND OUR
TEAM WAS AS
GOOD AS
DISSOLVED.

WE, THE
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS,
ENDED UP
GETTING
ELIMINATED
IN THE
PRELIMINA-
RIES!

HE
TOTALLY
DESTROYED
OUR TEAM-
WORK AND
MORALE...



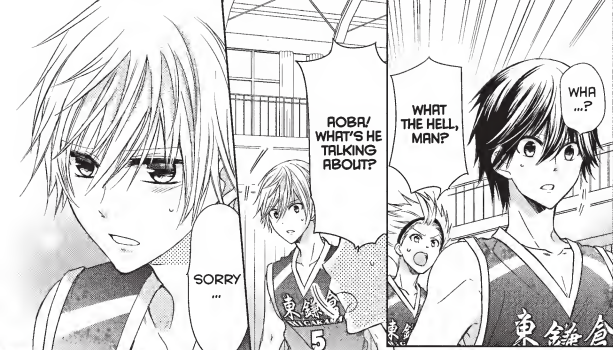
SO IT
WOULDN'T
MATTER IF
SOMEONE
BAILED.

AND
I STARTED
TO ONLY GO
FOR PLAYS
WHERE I
DIDN'T HAVE
TO RELY ON
ANYONE.



THAT'S
THE KIND
OF GUY
ROBA IS.

HE'LL
ABANDON
YOU GUYS,
TOO.





HE'S
SUDDENLY
GOTTEN
SLUGGISH.

CHECK OUT
NUMBER 8
FROM EAST
KAMAKURA

MURMUR

WHISPER
WHISPER

THEY'VE
REALLY FALLEN
BEHIND. THE
GAME'S
PRETTY MUCH
OVER, ISN'T
IT?

NAO-KUN...
HE'S REALLY
SHAKEN UP.



WELL, I
MEAN...
THEY'RE
SO STRONG

ROBA.
COME
HERE
FOR A
MINUTE.

HUHHH
= ?!

WE'RE
BEHIND
BY
TWENTY
POINTS!

WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
YOU
GUYS?

HALF-
TIME!

East
Kamakura 2
South
Hiratsuka 43



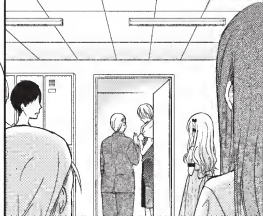
IT MIGHT NOT BE.

SO IT WAS JUST TALK?

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A TACTIC TO SHAKE US UP.

I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SAID ROBA WOULD ABANDON US, TOO.

WHISPER
WHISPER



"RESIG-NATION"?!
MURMUR

KOTA'S NOTICE OF RESIGNATION...

NAO-KUN, WHY...?!

NOTICE OF RESIGNATION

WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE...



RUSTLE

HERE.

NAO? DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ...?



GASP

AFTER I
LEARNED
THAT
UMEKI-
SAN
KNEW
WHAT
AOBA'S
PROB-
LEM
WAS...

...I
GREW
WORRIED
THAT I
WAS NO
LONGER
NEEDED...

YOU'RE
THE
SAME
AS ME.

HE KNOWS
SOMETHING
THAT WE
DON'T...

...ABOUT
KOTA'S
PROBLEM AND
THE REASON
BEHIND IT...

YOU WERE
THE ONE
WHO
TRUSTED
AOBA-
KUN THE
MOST...!

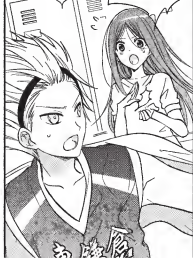
CLENCH

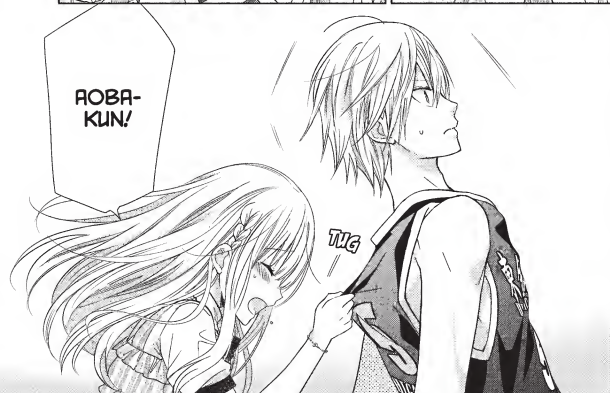
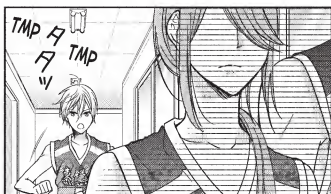
HE...



R-
RIGHT
!

IT'S TIME,
YOU GUYS!
MAKE SURE
YOU TURN
THINGS
AROUND!









...AT
LEAST TELL
THEM THAT
YOU CARE
ABOUT
THEM.

YOU
MIGHT NOT BE
ABLE TO TELL
THEM YOUR
PROBLEM,
BUT...

HUH...?



IF THEY
KNOW
THAT...

...ALL THEIR
WORRIES
WILL DISAP-
PEAR!



"WHY
WE'RE
PLAYING..."

THAT'S
RIGHT. WHEN
WE GET FLUS-
TERED, LET'S
REMEMBER
WHY WE'RE
PLAYING AND
FOCUS ON
THE BASICS.

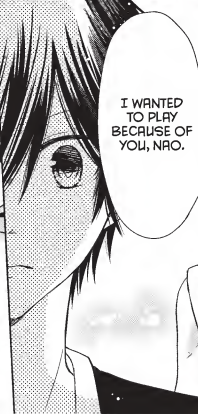


DON'T
GIVE UP
JUST
YET, YOU
GUYS!

IT'S AOBA-
KUN AND
NAO-KUN.
I'M SURE
THEY'LL
WORK THIS
OUT...!



HUH
...?



I WANTED
TO PLAY
BECAUSE OF
YOU, NAO.



THAT'S
RIGHT...



NICE SHOT!
AWESOME!
KOTA,
YOU'RE SO
GOOD!

HA
GAME

I
THOUGHT
I WASN'T
GOING
TO PLAY
BASKET-
BALL ANY-
MORE...
...BUT YOU
DRAGGED
ME TO THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM...



WHY NOT?
YOU'RE SO
PERFECT
IT'D BE
A WASTE
IF YOU
DIDN'T!

...

POINT

COMPLIMENT
ME ALL YOU
WANT, I'M
NOT JOIN-
ING THE
TEAM.



WHY AM
I DOING
THIS?!



I
TOLD
YOU,
I'M
NOT
JOIN-
ING!

I WANT
TO PIT
YOU
AGAINST
NAO!

HOW
WOULD
YOU
FEEL
ABOUT
JOINING
IF NAO
BEATS
YOU?

?!
??



HUH?
WHAT
ABOUT
HIM IS
"PER-
FECT"?

DON'T GET
AHEAD OF
YOURSELF,
FIRST-YEAR
KIDDO.

SHUG



I HAVE SO
MUCH FUN
PLAYING
BASKETBALL
WITH YOU!

MAN,
DO I LIKE
YOUR
PLAYING
STYLE,
KOTA!



...ERASED
ALL OF THE
REGRETS I
HAD...

WHEN
YOU SAID
TO ME...

I TOLD
YOU...



LOOKS
LIKE YOU
STILL
HAVE THE
GUTS
TO FACE
ME!

HA
HA!

...ABOUT
BASKET-
BALL.



NAO!!

WHAP

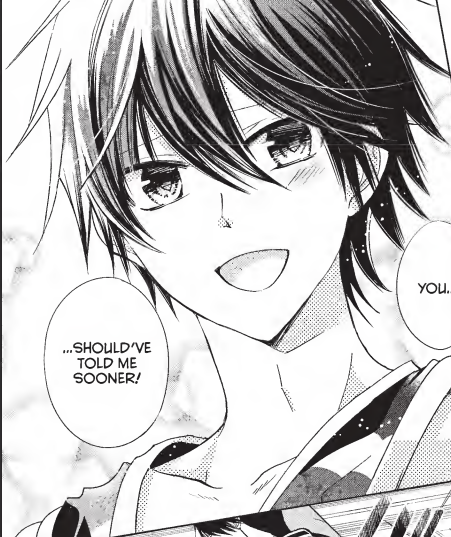
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I CAN'T SHARE WITH YOU, BUT...

GASP

5
MINAMI
HRATSUKA

...I WANT YOU TO KNOW...

...I REALLY LIKE PLAYING BASKETBALL WITH YOU!



...SHOULD'VE
TOLD ME
SOONER!

YOU...



DON'T
GET
AHEAD
OF
YOUR-
SELF!

THEY
REALLY
WORK
WELL
TOGETHER!

WOOHOO!
わあああ

THOSE
TWO HAVE
INCREDIBLE
BALL
HANDLING!





DON'T
GET IN
THE WAY!

!!

'CAUSE
I'M THE
ONE...

...MAKING
THE
BASKET
WITH
KOTA'S
BALL!

THUMP



**B
U
Z
Z**

HARUMA/
WE CAN'T
PASS THE
BALL ONLY
TO YOU.

WHAT'S
UP WITH
THESE
GUYS?

IT'S
LIKE WE'RE
TRYING TO
KEEP UP
WITH THAT
FIRST-
YEAR
KID!

TCH!

EAST
KAMA-
KURA
...
THEY'RE
STARTING
TO CATCH
UP!

C'MON,
GUYS!!

EAST
MAKURA

4

SOUTH
HIRATSUKA

65

75

SOUTH
HIRATSUKA
WINS 75
TO 65!

00:52

OH NO,
BUT...

THE
TIME...!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE...

...IT'S
OVER SO
QUICKLY...

PANT

PANT

OUR
ROAD
TO THE
NATION-
ALS...







CAPTAIN ...

IT'S
TOO
BAD.

IT'LL BE
WORTH
WORKING
HARD FOR
NEXT YEAR.

STILL, WE
PULLED IT
TOGETHER
IN THE SEC-
OND HALF.



HARUMA!

...THAT
HE'D BE
HUMILIATED
IN FRONT
OF ME A
SECOND
TIME.

I WANTED
TO DESTROY
ROBA SO
BADLY
...



...!

OTHERWISE,
PEOPLE WILL
BE HURT
BECAUSE
OF HIM
AGAIN.

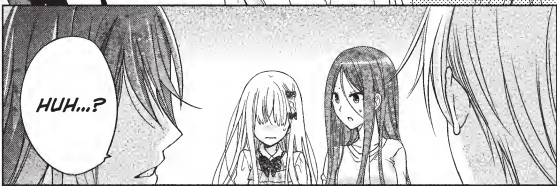


AREN'T YOU
JUST DUMPING
ALL THE BLAME ON
ROBA-KUN FOR
GETTING ELIMI-
NATED IN JUNIOR
HIGH?



UH...
ABOUT
THAT...

HARUMA?
WHY
WOULD
YOU SAY
THAT...?



HUH...?



NO ONE ON
OUR TEAM
THINKS FOR
A SECOND
THAT TODAY'S
LOSS WAS
BECAUSE OF
ROBA-KUN.

BUT...

I'M SO
SCARED
...



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

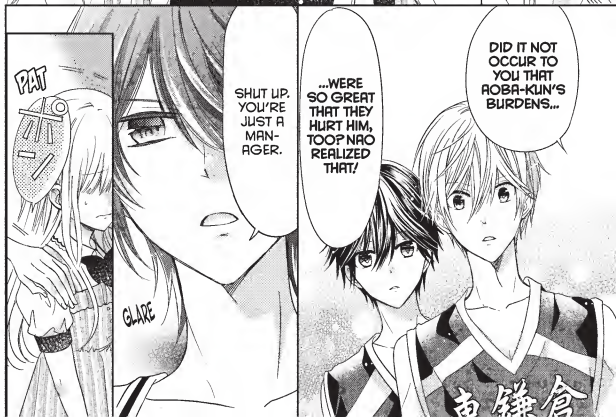
S...
SAKU-
RADA-
SAN?!



I'M NOT
GONNA LET
HIM HURT
EVERYONE...!

...WHY DIDN'T
YOU CARE
TO LISTEN
TO HIS
STRUGGLES?

IF YOU
HAD REALLY
VALUED
AOBA-KUN
AS A TEAM-
MATE...



PAT

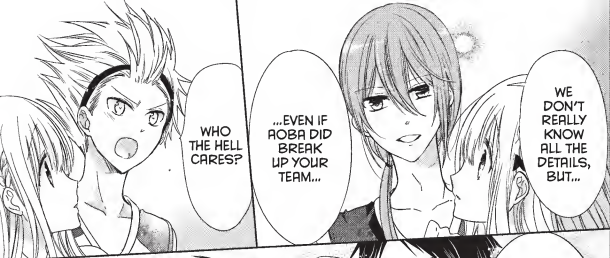
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE
JUST A
MAN-
AGER.

GLARE

...WERE
SO GREAT
THAT THEY
HURT HIM,
TOOP NAO
REALIZED
THAT!

DID IT NOT
OCCUR TO
YOU THAT
AOBA-KUN'S
BURDENS...

倉鎌



WHO
THE HELL
CARES?

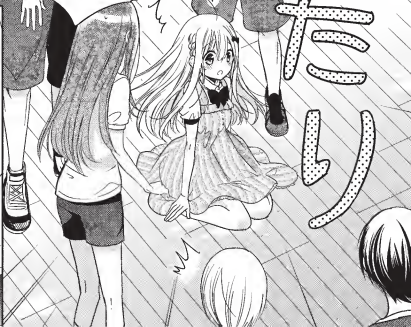
...EVEN IF
ROBA DID
BREAK
UP YOUR
TEAM...

WE
DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
ALL THE
DETAILS,
BUT...



A TEAM
IS ABOUT
SUFFERING
TOGETHER...

...AND OVER-
COMING
CHALLENGES
TOGETHER!





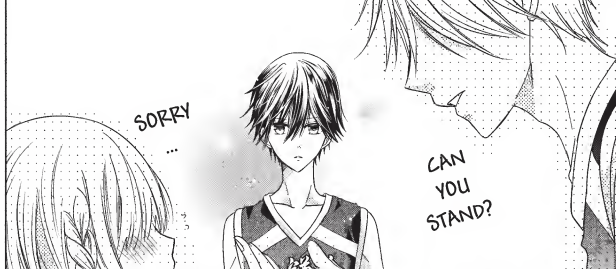
BUT...
THANKS.



HON-
ESTLY,
YOU'RE
UNBE-
LIEV-
ABLE...

YOU
GOT
CAR-
RIED
AWAY...





SORRY ...

CAN YOU STAND?



ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NAO?

PLAIN JANE SURE GAVE THEM A PIECE OF HER MIND!

YEAH.



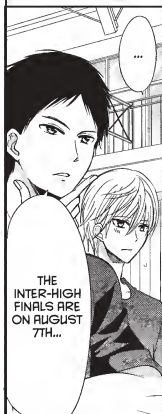
time.15

SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL YOU.

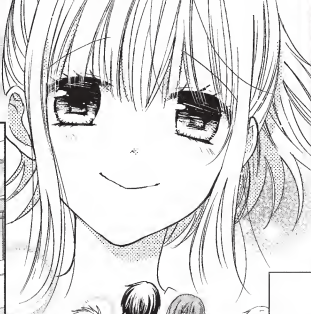


AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS





THE
INTER-HIGH
FINALS ARE
ON AUGUST
7TH...



HE'LL
ABANDON
YOU
GUYS,
TOO!



...THEY
AREN'T
PUSHING
AOBA-
KUN FOR
ANSWERS.

IT SEEMS
WHAT
HARUMA
SAID
IS ON
EVERY-
ONE'S
MINDS,
BUT...



A TEAM
RETREAT
?!

HUH?!



ALL
RIGHT!
WE'RE
GOING
TO HAVE
A TEAM
RETREAT
ON THAT
DAY!



AUGUST
7TH...

WOW!
SOUNDS
LIKE FUN...!

IT'S
GOING
TO BE
BOOTCAMP
HELL FOR
FOUR DAYS
AND THREE
NIGHTS!

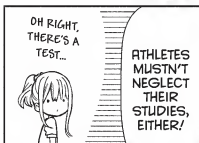
SO LIKE,
WE'RE
GOING
TO STAY
OVER-
NIGHT...?

WH- AAAT?!



EVERYONE,
LET'S NOT
FORGET
WHAT'S
BEFORE
THE TEAM
RETREAT!

AOBA-
KUN?



OH RIGHT,
THERE'S A
TEST...

ATHLETES
MUSTN'T
NEGLECT
THEIR
STUDIES,
EITHER!



IF
YOU FAIL,
YOU'LL HAVE
TO TAKE
REMEDIAL
CLASSES
AND WON'T
BE ABLE
TO GO TO
THE TEAM
RETREAT!



STARTING
TOMORROW,
THERE WILL BE
NO PRACTICE
UNTIL THE
TEST!

THERE'S A
TERM TEST
NEXT WEEK!

SIGH
はあ——

...SO I
REGRET
NOT
STUDYING
MORE
DURING
HIGH
SCHOOL...

I...I
FAILED
THE COL-
LEGE EN-
TRANCE
EXAMS
...

UH...OH
NO...

MY
MARKS
ALWAYS
CUT IT
REALLY
CLOSE...

STUDYING
IS IMPOR-
TANT...

I SEE...

UHH...I
JUST...

FAILING
THE
COLLEGE
EXAMS...

REMOVING
CLASSES...

FAILING...

YOU
GET
TOO
CAUGHT
UP IN
THE
CLIENT'S
STORIES
!!

GET
IT TO-
GETHER!
YOU HAVE
ANOTHER
CLIENT
WAITING!

はあ SIGH

SIGH...

OH,
MAYO!



RIGHT
THIS
WAY.



MR'AM,
THE CLIENT
IS HERE.

OKAY
...



OKAY,
LET HIM
IN.



NAO-
KUN
HAS A
SHARP
INTU-
ITION
...

THAT'S
NOT
GONNA
DIS-
GUISE
ME!

AGAIN?
OKAY,
PUT
ON MY
SCARF.

WH, I
KNOW
HIM,
SO...



"MAKE-
OVER?"

WELL,
THEN, WE
HAVE NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
GIVE YOU
A MAKE-
OVER.

BUT
WHY
DID HE
COME
HERE?



NAO-
KUN?!

SLAM / / /

WHAT
ARE
YOU-?!



THESE DAYS, I GO TO
A CAT SHELTER CAFÉ
ON MY DAYS OFF.♡

IT'S A CAFÉ RUN BY A
VOLUNTEER GROUP
THAT SHELTERS A LOT
OF CATS, AND DESPITE
BEING CALLED A CAFÉ,
YOU CAN CASUALLY
DRINK A CAN OF JUICE
THERE. IT'S THE CATS
THAT ARE THE MAIN
ATTRACTION.♡

IF THERE'S A CAT
THAT YOU LIKE, YOU
CAN ADOPT IT AFTER
THEY DETERMINE YOU
TO BE A SUITABLE
FIT.♡

I ALREADY HAVE
THREE CATS, SO I
JUST GO THERE TO
ADMIRE THE CATS,
ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN
TEMPTED DURING
KITTY SEASON!♡

I WANT TO TAKE
THEM HOME WITH ME.
BUT I KEEP THAT
FEELING IN CHECK,
AND I TRY TO HELP
OUT BY GIVING
MONETARY AND FOOD
DONATIONS. ☆🐱

CAT SHELTER CAFÉS
AREN'T VERY WELL
KNOWN, BUT WHO
KNOWS? THERE MIGHT
BE ONE NEAR YOUR
HOUSE! 🎵

I'M WAITING FOR YOU!



BADIMP

U
#

UH!

GLARE

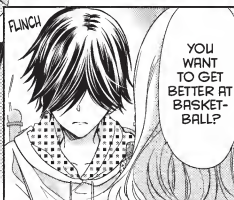
...HE
WANTS
TO GET
OFF HIS
CHEST.

HOW DO I
GET BETTER
AT BASKET-
BALL?



...SOMETHING
YOU SHOULD
ASK ROBA-
KUN OR
THE TEAM
CAPTAIN...

THAT'S,
UH...



FLINCH

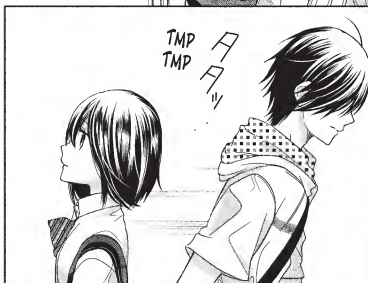
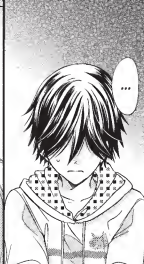
YOU
WANT
TO GET
BETTER AT
BASKET-
BALL?

THEN
WHAT?

I
DO...

I
MEAN,
IF I
DON'T
GET
BETTER,
THEN...

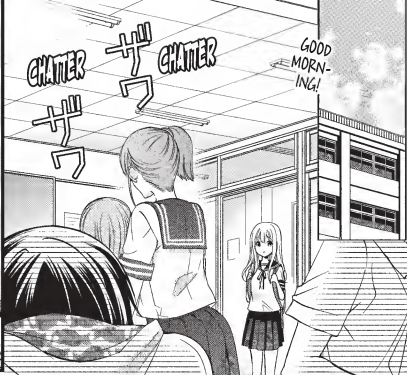






HE'S
SLEEP-
ING...

Z
Z
Z...



GOOD
MORN-
ING!

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER



...AND
I CAN'T
TELL
AOBA-
KUN THAT
HE CAME
TO THE
LISTENING
HOUSE...

HE
PROB-
ABLY
WON'T
TELL
ME...



UNG-
HHH...



NAO-KUN'S
BEEN
REALLY
WORRIED...

HE
MUST BE
BOTHERED
BY SOME-
THING AFTER
THE LAST
GAME...

I CAN'T
LEAVE HIM
LIKE THIS...

HE'S
MUMB-
LING...

UM...

UH...

SURE,
IF YOU
CAN
KEEP UP
NEXT
TO MY
BIKE!

SO
MEAN!

AOBA! ♡
YOU DON'T
HAVE
PRACTICE,
RIGHT?
LET'S GO
HOME TO-
GETHER!
♡

UH...
WELL,
THE
TRUTH
IS...

SORRY,
NAO-KUN,
FOR
DOING
THIS
WITHOUT
TELLING
YOU...!

I'M
SORRY!
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I JUST HAVE
TO ASK
YOU...

WHAT
IS IT,
SAKU-
RADA?

AOBA-
KUN, CAN
YOU...
SPARE
THREE
MINUTES
OF YOUR
TIME...?

SO
POPUL-
LAR...



HOW DO
YOU GET
GOOD AT
BASKET-
BALL?!



UH!

SORRY...
FORGET
I SAID
ANY-
THING.



!! OH,
YEAH...
AOBA-
KUN IS A
SPECIAL
CASE...!!

THAT'S A
GOOD
QUESTION.
I ALWAYS
JUST
IMPROVE
WITHOUT
REALIZING...



IF I CAN
GET AN
ANSWER TO
NAO-KUN'S
QUESTION,
IT MIGHT
HELP SOLVE
ONE OF HIS
PROBLEMS!

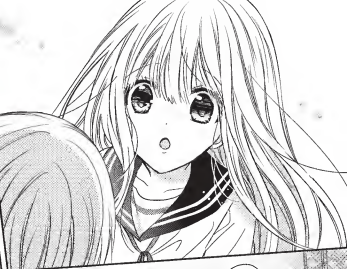
ARE YOU
PICKING
IT UP?

HUH
...?



WAIT!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL YOU!





IT'S MY
BIRTHDAY
ON AUGUST
7TH, SO...



INCRED-
IBLE...!
AOBA-KUN'S
HARDENED
HEART...

...HAS
SOFTENED
THANKS
TO EVERY-
ONE...



I
THINK...
I THINK
THAT'S A
GREAT
IDEA!

...I WANT
TO START
FRESH
FROM
THERE.



I'M
CONFIDENT
...

...THAT
YOU CAN
CHANGE!



YEAH...



I
DON'T
WANT TO
LOSE
PASSION
FOR THE
THINGS
I LOVE
...

...EVEN
OUTSIDE
OF BAS-
KETBALL.



NOT
AT ALL
...

SOR-
RY...



GASP



VRRR

YOU
MEAN
...



OH! NO
PROBLEM!
I'M SORRY
I BOTHERED YOU.

I...
HAVE TO
GO.

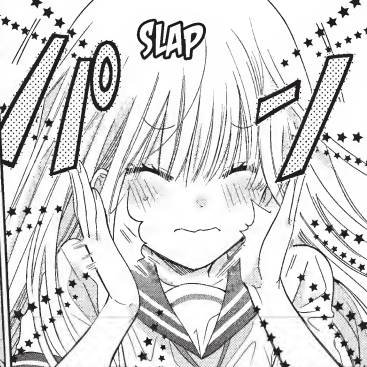
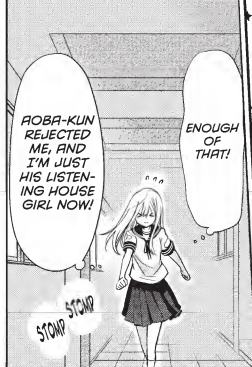


IF AOBA-
KUN BROKE
UP WITH
UMEKI-SAN
BECAUSE HE
WAS AFRAID
TO LOSE
PASSION
FOR THE
THINGS HE
LIKED...

DOES
HE MEAN
"LOVE"
WHEN
HE SAYS
"OUT-
SIDE OF
BASKET-
BALL"?

IT COULD
MEAN THAT
HE STILL HAS
FEELINGS
FOR HER...







IT'S LIKE
HE'S
PANICKED
ABOUT
SOME-
THING...



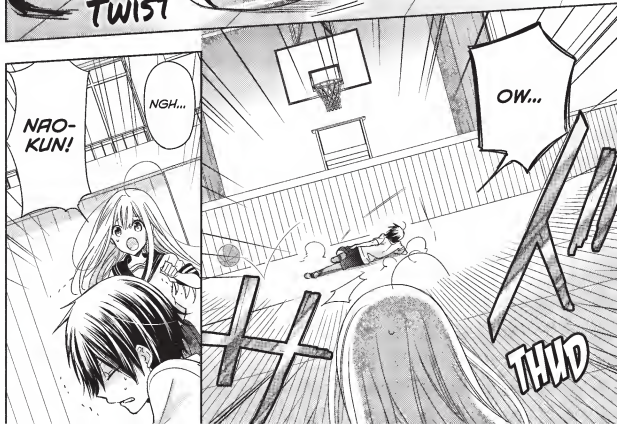
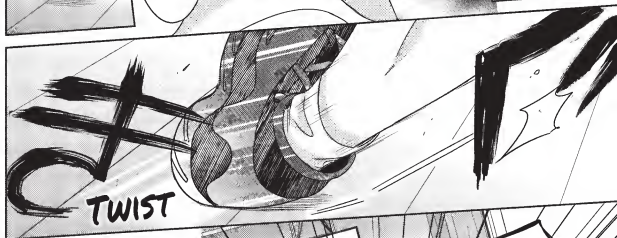
NAO-
KUN?!

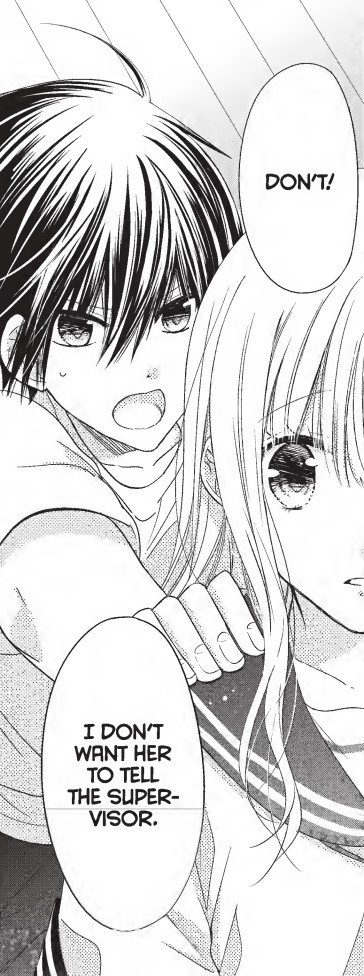


HE
SEEMS
SO...
FRANTIC.

HE'S
PRA-
CTIC-
ING
ALONE
...?







DON'T!

**I DON'T
WANT HER
TO TELL
THE SUPER-
VISOR.**

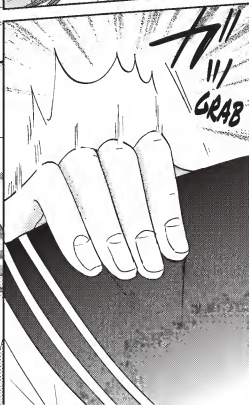
**HE'S BEEN
PRACTIC-
ING SO
HARD
LATELY
THAT HE'S
PUSHED
HIMSELF
TOO FAR!**

**YOU
HAVE A
BRUISE
...**

**SAKU-
RADA-
SAN...**



**I'LL
CALL THE
NURSE!**



BUT
...

PLEASE.

I DON'T
WANT TO BE
A BURDEN
ON EVERY-
ONE ELSE.

HUH?

THEN...

LET ME
AT LEAST
BANDAGE
YOU UP.



NGH
...



JOLT

SHIVER

UH,
FIRST, WE
COOL THE
INJURY...

I LEARNED
HOW TO DO
THIS FROM
MATSUMAE-
SAN, SO IT'LL
BE FINE!



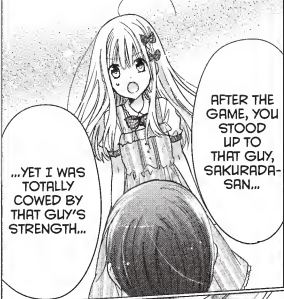
IF
YOU INJURE
YOURSELF,
NAO-KUN,
IT'LL JUST
MAKE EVERY-
ONE FEEL
DOWN.

HEY, I
KNOW YOU FEEL
SORE ABOUT THE
LOSS, BUT DOING
YOUR BEST IS
DIFFERENT FROM
PUSHING YOUR-
SELF TOO FAR...



NO...

I MEAN,
EVEN I FEEL
REALLY SAD...



...YET I WAS
TOTALLY
COWED BY
THAT GUY'S
STRENGTH...

AFTER THE
GAME, YOU
STOOD
UP TO
THAT GUY,
SAKURADA-
SAN...

IT'S NOT
THAT
I FEEL
SORE
ABOUT
THE
LOSS...

IT'S
THAT I
FEEL
PATHETIC
...



IF HE'S
KOTA'S
FORMER
PARTNER
...



AND
WHAT IF YOU
AREN'T?

...I HAVE
TO BE EVEN
STRONGER
THAN HIM!





WELL,
I
MEAN
...!

KOTA'S NOT
GONNA
STICK
AROUND
WITH AN EVEN
WEAKER
TEAMMATE...!

COLDER

EVEN
TOO

YOU SAID
YOU WERE
THE COM-
MANDING
OFFICER
OF THE
"KOTA LOVE
SQUAD,"
RIGHT?



I'M
GONNA
TAKE OVER
THAT ROLE.

HUH?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
?!

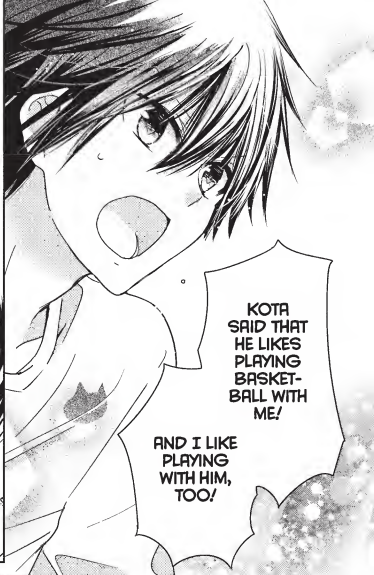
WELL,
I MEAN,
YOU
DON'T
TRUST
ROBA-
KUN,
RIGHT?

YOU
KNOW
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!



NO ONE'S
EVER GOING
TO TRUST HIM
MORE THAN
I DO...

GASP



KOTA
SAID THAT
HE LIKES
PLAYING
BASKET-
BALL WITH
ME!

AND I LIKE
PLAYING
WITH HIM,
TOO!



I
WAS VERY
MOVED BY
HOW WELL
YOU TWO
PLAYED TO-
GETHER.

HARUMA-
KUN
COULD
NEVER
IMITATE
THAT...



'CAUSE
THERE'S NO
PAIR THAT
TRUSTS EACH
OTHER MORE
THAN YOU
TWO!

IF YOU
TWO GET
STRONGER
TOGETHER,
HARUMA-KUN
WILL BE NO
MATCH FOR
YOU GUYS!



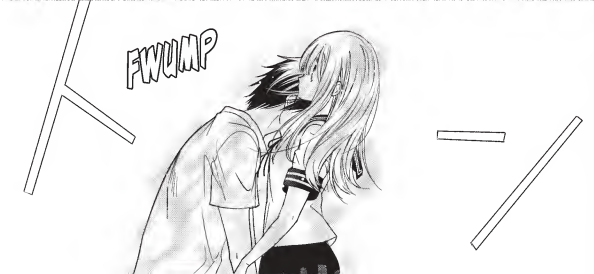
JUST
TAKE A
BREAK,
AND...

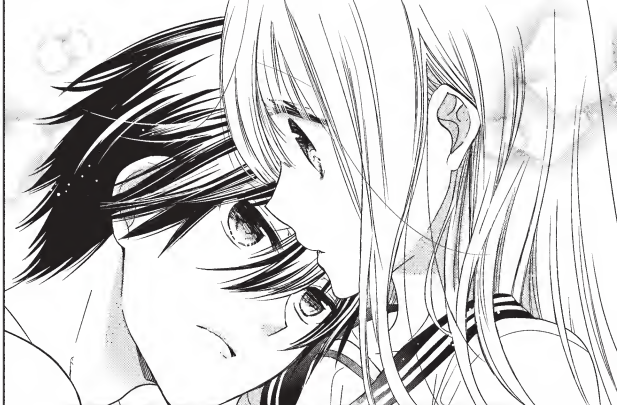


PHEW...

OKAY!
ALL
DONE...!

FWUMP





...I WAS
FEELING
PANICKED...
ALL BY
MYSELF.

YOU'RE
RIGHT...IT'S
NOT LIKE
KOTA LEFT,
BUT...

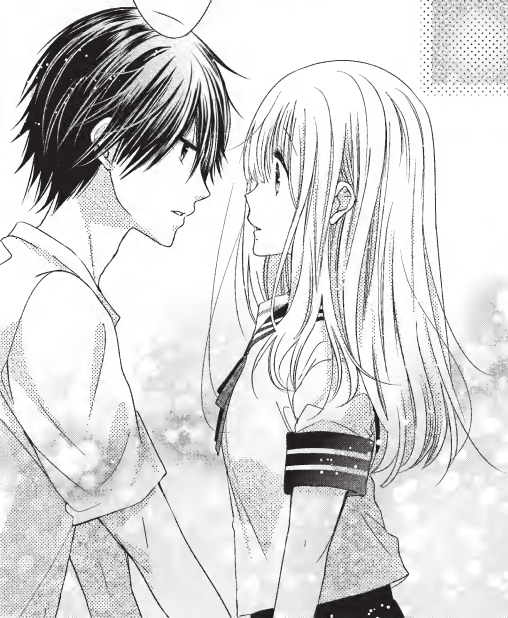


BUT I'M
OKAY AFTER
TALKING
WITH YOU,
SAKURADA-
SAN.

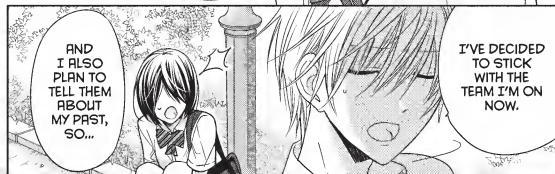
...WOULD
YOU BE
WILLING
TO
LISTEN?

IF I FEEL
LOST
AGAIN...

I MUCH
PREFER
TELLING MY
PROBLEMS
TO YOU THAN
SOMEONE
I DON'T
KNOW.









HARUMA
ALWAYS SAYS
THAT YOU
ABANDONED
HIM.

WHAT
ABOUT
ME?



**ARE YOU
ABAN-
DONING
ME, TOO,
AOBA?**



time .16

THE
TRUTH IS...



ARE YOU
ABANDONING
ME, TOO,
AOBA?

ABAN-
DONING
YOU...?

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESSIONS



WHY...?

HEY,
WAIT!

WHY
HARUMA
...?



IF I
FEEL LOST
AGAIN, WOULD
YOU BE WILLING
TO LISTEN?



HA
HA
HA!

ALTHOUGH
ROBA-KUN
MIGHT BE
A BETTER
CHOICE...

WE'RE
BASKET-
BALL
TEAM-
MATES!

OF
COURSE!



OH! I
ALMOST
FORGOT!

AUGUST 7TH,
THE DAY OF
THE TEAM
RETREAT, IS
ROBA-KUN'S
BIRTHDAY!

...

GLUM



GIGGLE

HUH
...?!



I KNOW
THAT, 'CAUSE
THE MONTH
AND DAY IS
REVERSED
FOR MY
BIRTHDAY,
JULY 8TH.



I'LL
CLEAN UP
BEFORE THE
TEACHER
FINDS OUT
WE WERE
HERE!

EVEN YOUR
BIRTHDAYS ARE
PAIRED UP! I HAVE
NOTHING TO BE
WORRIED ABOUT,
CLEARLY!



BUT...

AND
HE WAS
SO CLOSE,
TOO... A
GIRL CAN
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA LIKE
THAT!

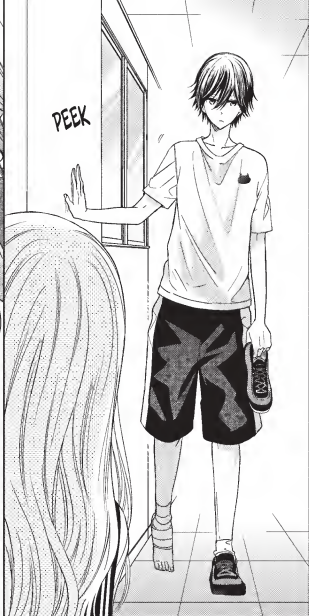
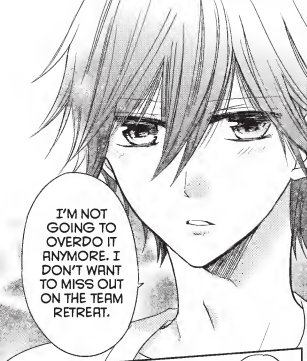
I THOUGHT
HE WANTED
ME TO BE
HIS LISTEN-
ING HOUSE
GIRL WHEN
HE ASKED
ME IF I WAS
WILLING TO
LISTEN...!

THA-THUMP

I...
I WAS
SO
SUR-
PRISED
...!

THA-THUMP

THA-THUMP





MY CATS ARE THE SAME AS THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN, BUT THERE'S ONE THAT BEHAVES LIKE SUCH A DARLING (SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A DOTING PARENT).

SHE LOOKS AT ME AND MEOWS, AS IF TO CALL ME OVER, SO WHEN I FOLLOW HER, SHE TAKES ME TO A PARK ROOM WHERE THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER CATS, PURRS, AND GIVES ME A PASSIONATE LOOK... S...SO CUTE...

IF I BRAG ABOUT THAT TO MY FAMILY, THEY WHISPER ABOUT HOW SENSUAL THAT IS!! HEH HEH.

IN FRONT OF OTHER CATS, SHE'S TOO EMBARRASSED. IT'S SO CUTE!!

THIS IS HOW I AM WITH MY CATS, RAMEN AND BREAD, BUT I HOPE YOU TUNE IN NEXT TIME, TOO. (SUDDENLY EARNEST). I'D BE REALLY HAPPY TO GET LETTERS FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR PET AND RAMEN STORIES, AS WELL AS YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MANGA, OF COURSE.

I WRITE THIS TO YOU AT TWO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THANKS FOR STICKING AROUND.





WE'RE
ALREADY
RUN-DOWN
MENTALLY,
THOUGH!

WE'RE
GOING TO
TRAIN THE
MENTAL
FORTITUDE
NEEDED TO
BEAT SOUTH
HIRATSUKA
IN THIS
RUN-DOWN
PLACE!



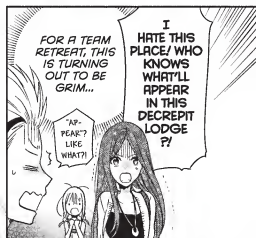
THERE'S
NO POINT
WATCHING
THE GAME.
SHOULD
WE START
PRACTICE?

AOBA-
KUN...?

YEAH.



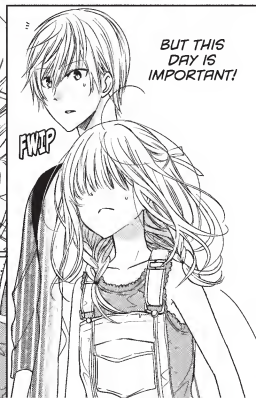
IT'S THE
DAY
THAT
AOBA-
KUN
TELLS
EVERY-
ONE
...!



FOR A TEAM
RETREAT, THIS
IS TURNING
OUT TO BE
GRIM...

I
HATE THIS
PLACE! WHO
KNOWS
WHAT'LL
APPEAR
IN THIS
DECREPIT
LODGE
?!

"AP-
PEAR"?
LIKE
WHAT?!



BUT THIS
DAY IS
IMPORTANT!

FUMP

UM, UH!
I'LL WORK
HARD TO
CLEAN THE
ROOMS!

LET'S MAKE IT
A WONDERFUL
BIRTHDAY.

LET'S
ALL DO
OUR
BEST!

AND I'LL
MAKE SOME
FOOD SO YOU
GUYS HAVE
SOMETHING
TO LOOK
FORWARD
TO AFTER
PRACTICE!

FOOD... ♡

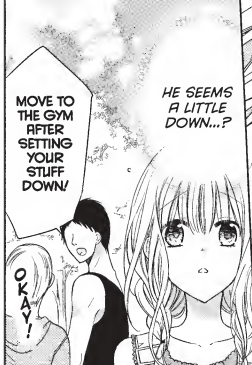
UH,
OKAY.

ROAR

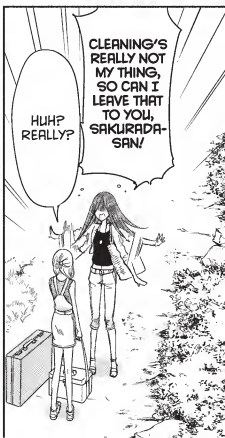
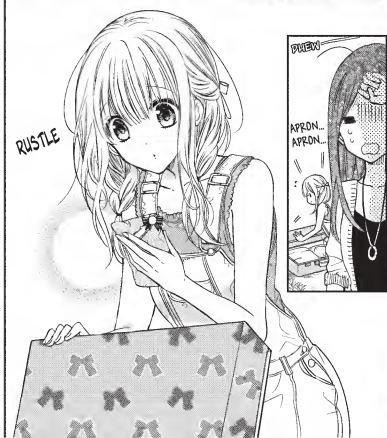
I MEAN,
TODAY IS
SPECIAL.

**YEAH!
I'M ON
FIRE!**

MANAGER-
CHAN,
YOU HAVE
THE MOST
SPIRIT OUT
OF ALL OF
US.



HE SEEMS A LITTLE DOWN...?





OKAY!

OKAY!
I'M
GONNA
DO MY
BEST!

I'M
OFF TO
CLEAN!!



woo! 

OH!

 woo!



HER
HAIR'S
ALL
MESSY.

SAKU-
RADA-
SAN IS
WORK-
ING
HARD.

YOU CAN
SEE WHERE
WE'RE STAY-
ING FROM
HERE.

Earth D
This world is full of
imagination. Our

IT LOOKS
LIKE SOUTH
HIRATSUKA
LOST IN THE
FINALS.

OH!!

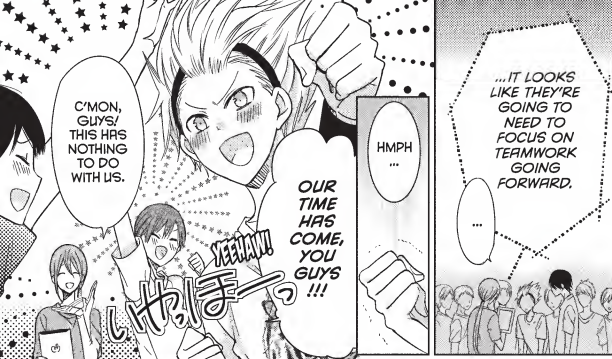
KOTA...

IT WAS
A CLOSE
GAME, BUT
KYOTO'S
ARASHIKA-
WA WINS THE
CHAMPION-
SHIP WITH A
SCORE OF
72 TO 68!

FIRST-YEAR
HARUMA
EMORI'S SOLO
STYLE STOOD
OUT FOR
SOUTH
HIRATSUKA
HIGH, BUT...

UH...

WHAT IS IT,
RYOSUKE?



C'MON,
GUYS!
THIS HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH US.

OUR
TIME
HAS
COME,
YOU
GUYS
!!!

HMPH
...

...IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE
GOING TO
NEED TO
FOCUS ON
TEAMWORK
GOING
FORWARD.

...



LET'S
FOCUS ON
THAT IN OUR
PRACTICE!

RIGHT,
ROBAR?

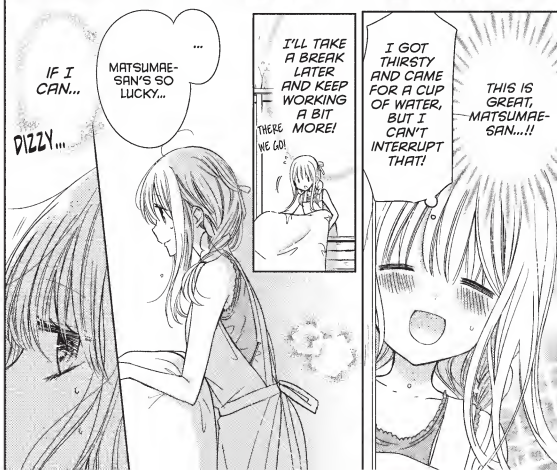
TEAMWORK
REALLY IS
IMPORTANT!



UM...THE
TRUTH IS...









...?
I CAN
HEAR
ROBA-
KUN'S
VOICE
FROM
AFAR...

SAKURADA
?!

HEY
!!

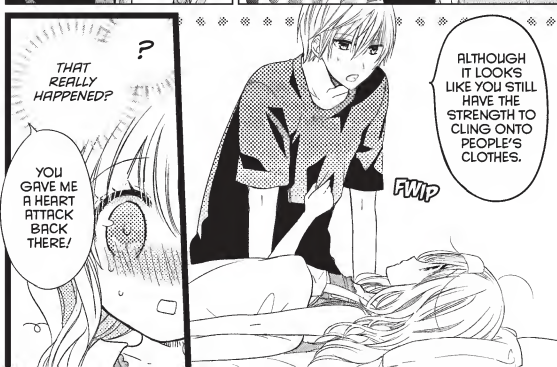
WAKE
UP!!

GRIP

IS
ROBA-
KUN...

IS
THIS A
DREAM?

...REALLY
THIS
CLOSE?





DIP

DID
I...GET IN
THE WAY
OF YOU
OPENING
UP TO THE
TEAM...?

UH...

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEAN...



YOU'D
FAINTED
WHEN I WAS
ABOUT TO
TELL EVERYONE,
SO...

SIGH

IT
SOUNDS
PATHETIC...
BUT AT THE
LAST MINUTE,
I WANTED THE
COURAGE
TO SAY WHAT
I HAD TO
SAY...



...SO I WAS
LOOKING
AROUND
FOR YOU.



PRETTY
SILLY, HUH?
I THINK I
MIGHT BE
QUITE
DEPENDENT
ON YOU.



I'M...
AOBA-
KUN'S
COURAGE
...?

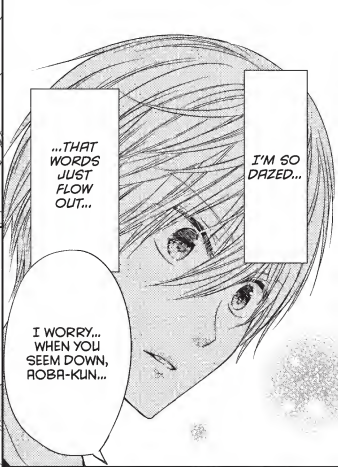


I'M
GLAD.

I...WANT
YOU TO
DEPEND
ON ME AS
MUCH AS
YOU NEED.



NOW'S
NOT THE
TIME FOR
THAT!



...THAT
WORDS
JUST
FLOW
OUT...

I'M SO
DAZED...



SMILE

THAT'S
HOW IT
SEEMED.

I WORRY...
WHEN YOU
SEEM DOWN,
ROBA-KUN...



YOU
DON'T
KNOW...?



A
MONTH
AGO...I
SAW
ASUKA...

I JUST
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO
THINK, THAT'S
ALL...

...AND
SHE TOLD
ME SHE STILL
HAD FEELINGS
FOR ME.



HUH...?

AFTER
I DISTANCED
MYSELF FROM THE
BASKETBALL TEAM
IN JUNIOR HIGH,
ASUKA WAS THE
ONLY PERSON I
SHARED MY
PROBLEM
WITH.



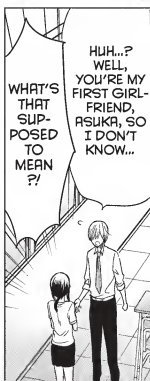
SO
THEN...

SO I'M
SCARED
THAT IT'LL
BE LIKE
THAT FOR
BASKET-
BALL,
TOO...



YEAH...

IF YOU
REALLY LIKE
SOMETHING,
YOU'LL END
UP LOSING
INTEREST IN
IT...? AND IT'S
BEEN LIKE
THAT SINCE
WAY BACK?



WHAT'S
THAT
SUP-
POSED
TO
MEAN
?!

HUH...?
WELL,
YOU'RE MY
FIRST GIRL-
FRIEND,
ASUKA, SO
I DON'T
KNOW...



...YOU'LL
LOSE
INTEREST IN
ME, TOO?

...DOES
THAT MEAN
THAT...







I THOUGHT
THAT SHE
WAS DONE
WITH ME...



I
THOUGHT
THAT SOME-
ONE LIKE ME
WOULD ONLY
HURT...



...THOSE
I CARED
ABOUT.

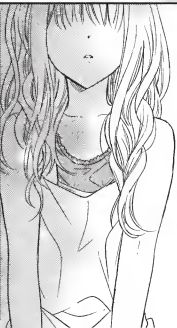


HE WAS
PER-
PLEXED
WHEN
SHE
TOLD
HIM SHE
STILL
HAD
FEEL-
INGS...



YOU ONLY
CAUSED
TROUBLE BY
COMING
HERE.

HE
PUSHED
UMEKI-SAN
AWAY
BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T
WANT TO
HURT HER
ANY MORE
THAN HE
ALREADY
DID...



BUT
TO THINK THAT
SHE LIKES ME
EVEN NOW...

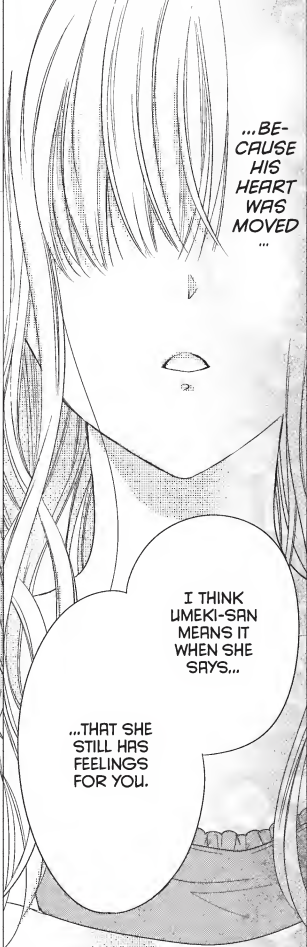


A boy with short hair and a girl with long hair tied in a ponytail are shown from the chest up. The boy is looking at the girl, and she is looking down. They are both wearing dark clothing.

SHE
SAID SHE
WISHED
SHE COULD
LAUGH WITH
YOU AGAIN
LIKE THE
OLD
DAYS.

SHE WAS
HONEST
ABOUT IT
WITH ME,
TOO...

HUH
...?



A large, detailed close-up of a girl's face. She has long, straight hair and is looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression. Her mouth is slightly open.

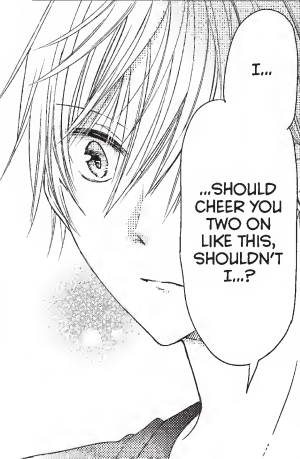
...BE-
CAUSE
HIS
HEART
WAS
MOVED
...



A close-up of a boy's face. He has short hair and is looking down with a serious expression. A single tear is visible on his cheek.

OH...

I
SEE...



A close-up of a girl's face. She has long hair and is looking up with a wide-eyed, hopeful expression. Her mouth is slightly open.

I...

...SHOULD
CHEER YOU
TWO ON
LIKE THIS,
SHOULDN'T
I...?

I THINK
UMEKI-SAN
MEANS IT
WHEN SHE
SAYS...

...THAT SHE
STILL HAS
FEELINGS
FOR YOU.

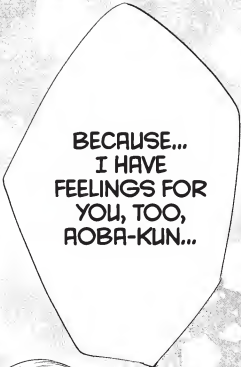


**BUT...THE
TRUTH IS...
I DON'T
WANT TO.**

**I
SHOULDN'T
SAY THIS...
BUT I CAN'T
HELP MY-
SELF...**



I'M
SORRY...



BECAUSE...
I HAVE
FEELINGS FOR
YOU, TOO,
ROBA-KUN...



SAKU-
RADA...

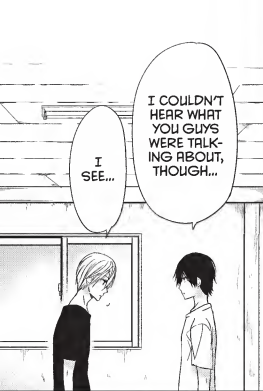
RUSTLE

はっ

THIS
IS FOR
YOU...

I HOPE
YOU LIKE
IT.

AS YOUR
LISTENING
HOUSE
GIRL...AND
MANAGER





HUHP? ME,
TOO?



Dear Aoba-kun (born on 08/07)
and Nao-kun (born on 07/08)
♥ HAPPY BIRTHDAY ♥
I got matching wrist bands
for the two of you.



...BUT IF
YOU'RE
GONNA
MAKE
HER CRY
LIKE
THAT...

YOU KNOW,
I THOUGHT
YOU LIKED
SAKURADA-
SAN, KOTA
...



WOW.



WOULD
IT BE COOL
IF I ACTED ON
MY FEELINGS
FOR HER?

KER-
CHAK



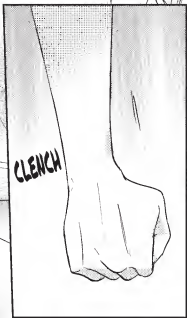
HUH...?

SHUT / P
A /



I'LL
TAKE IT
FROM
HERE.

NAO?!



To be continued in Volume 5

AOBA-KUN'S
CONFESIONS



A O B A K U N N I K I K I T A I K O T O



THIS
MORNING...I WAS
WOKEN UP BY MY
SWEETIE, WHO
CLIMBED ONTO MY
BED AND WAS
LICKING MY
FACE.

SIGH

EXTRA EDITION
"A DAY OF SWEET
STORIES"



WELL,
WHENEVER I'M
ABOUT TO TAKE
MY BATH, MINE
ALWAYS COMES
AND GIVES ME A
HUG, SAYING SHE
WANTS TO JOIN
ME, SO I ALWAYS
TAKE A BATH
WITH HER.

SIGH



...IS ROBA-
KUN AND
NAO-KUN
TALKING
ABOUT...?

WHO THE
HECK...

カキ=

FROZEN

THIS IS LUCKY, AND HE'S A SUPER CHILL, CALMING BOY.

LOOK! THIS IS MY CAT, ANMITSU! SHE'S THREE YEARS OLD AND HAS SUCH A HOT-COLD PERSONALITY!

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR PETS.

CAN YOU TAKE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND LOVE STORIES SOMEWHERE ELSE?

WHAT?!

"SHE"?
"HE"? NOT
"IT"?

WOW!
THEY'RE BOTH SO CUTE!

NO, CATS ARE!

DOGS ARE THE BEST.

SHUFFLE...

HOW ABOUT YOU, SAKURADA-SAN?

PFFT!
YOU MISHEAR IT LIKE THAT.

MY LUCKY HOLDS HIS BOWL IN HIS MOUTH AT DINNER TIME AND ACTUALLY SAYS, "FOOD"!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, NAO?

WOW...

ANMITSU MAY BE A CAT, BUT SHE KNOWS HOW TO FETCH.

SHE'S SMARTER THAN A DOG!



OR A DOG
PERSON?

ARE YOU
A CAT
PERSON?

WHICH
ARE
YOU?



UHH,
I'M...

...THE
OTHER ONE
IS GOING
TO SULK
ABOUT
NOT BEING
CHOSEN!

R...
REGARD-
LESS OF
WHO I
CHOOSE...



...A
SQUIRREL
PERSON...

AND WITH
THAT, THE
TWO OF
THEM GAVE
ME THE COLD
SHOULDER
FOR AWHILE.



THE END

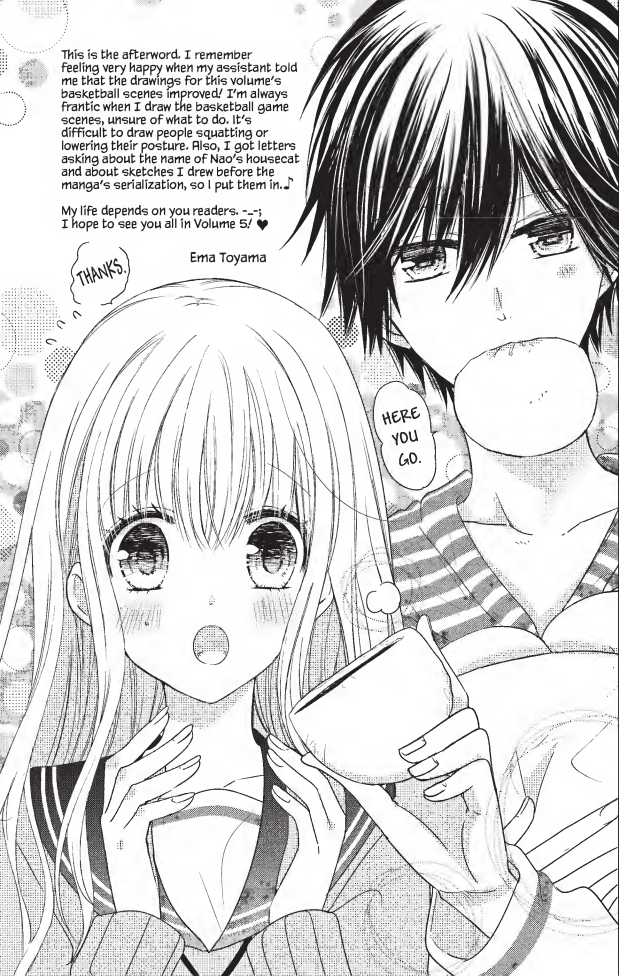
This is the afterword. I remember feeling very happy when my assistant told me that the drawings for this volume's basketball scenes improved! I'm always frantic when I draw the basketball game scenes, unsure of what to do. It's difficult to draw people squatting or lowering their posture. Also, I got letters asking about the name of Nao's housecat and about sketches I drew before the manga's serialization, so I put them in.♪

My life depends on you readers. --; I hope to see you all in Volume 5! ♥

Emi Toyama

THANKS.

HERE
YOU
GO.



PRE-
SERIALIZATION
ROUGH
SKETCHES

FUZZYWHIRL

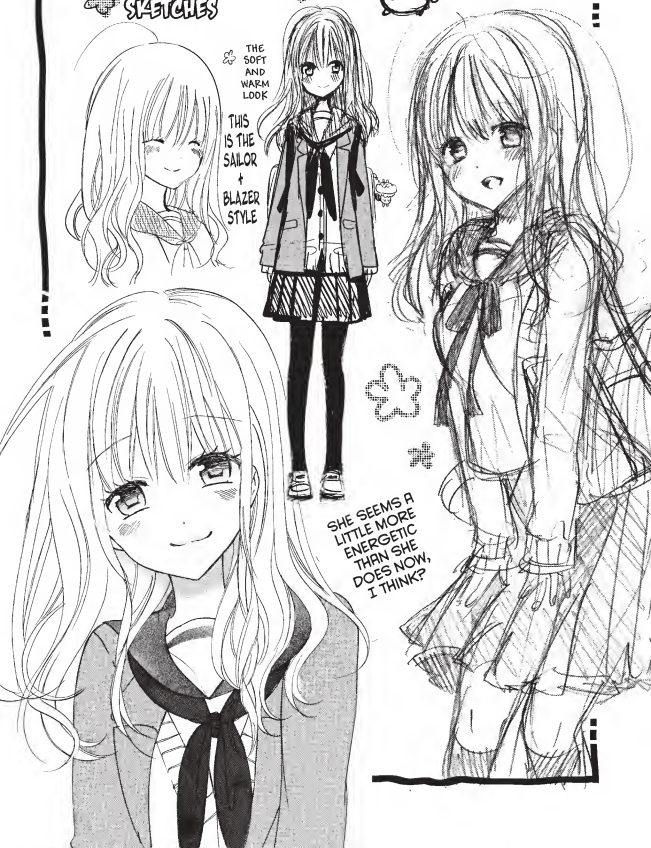
MAYO



THE
SOFT
AND
WARM
LOOK

THIS
IS THE
SAILOR
+
BLAZER
STYLE

SHE SEEMS A
LITTLE MORE
ENERGETIC
THAN SHE
DOES NOW,
I THINK?





AT THE START,
THERE WAS A
CHARACTER THAT
MAYO LIKED CALLED
"MAYO-KUN" (WAY
TOO ROUND...),
BUT I JUST
STUCK WITH
FUZZYWHIRL
AS THE
ONE MASCOT.

SOME-
THING
LIKE
THIS...



MATSUMAE
STARTED OFF AS
A "GYARU"-TYPE
CHARACTER.



SHE WAS JUST A NORMAL GIRL
WHO WASN'T A TEAM MAN-
AGER. NOW SHE'S THE MOST
SERIOUS CHARACTER. --

WAVY

THERE
ARE
ALWAYS
A FEW
KINKS
IN HER
HAIR.

Aobakun's Confessions 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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